



2002

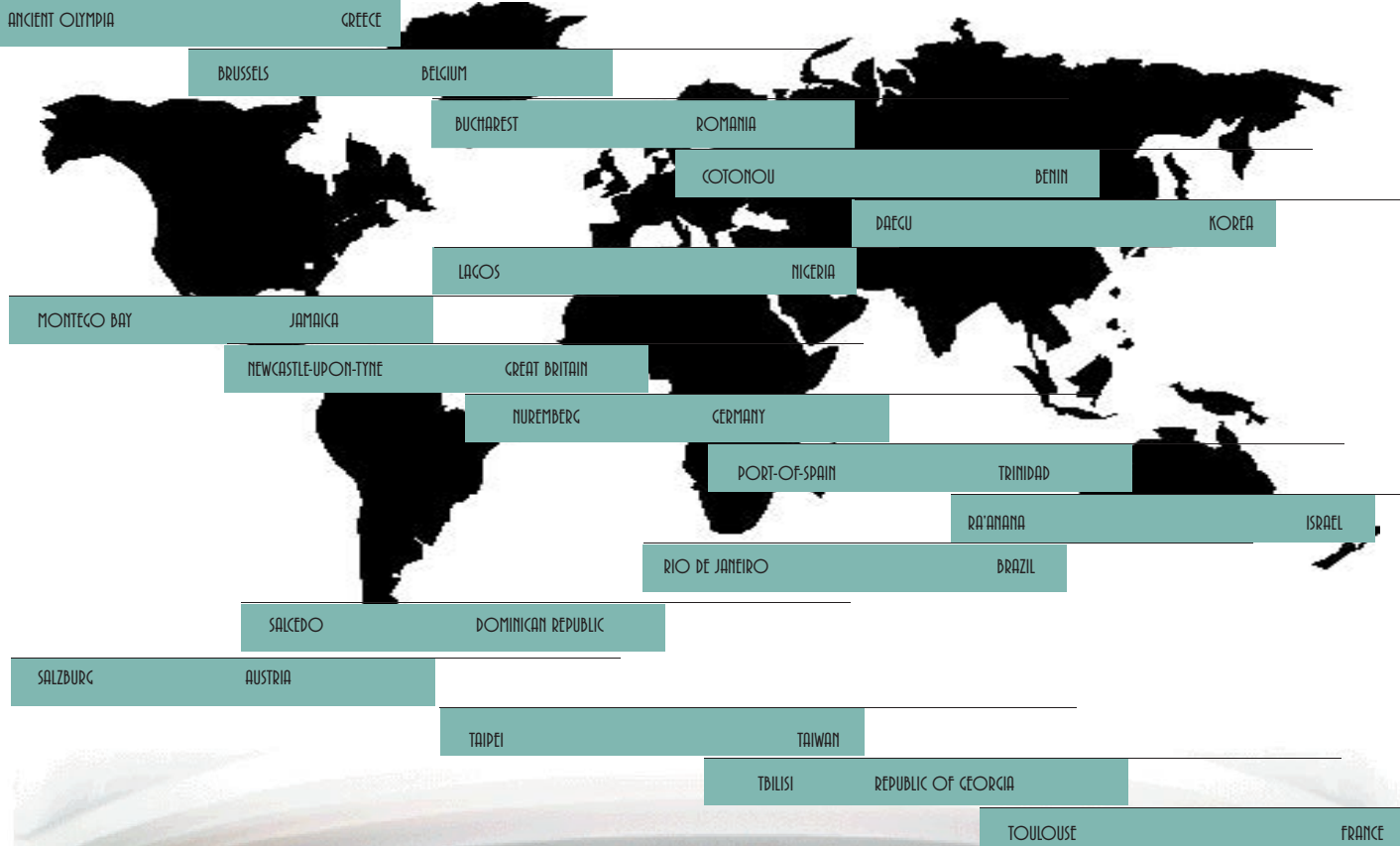
ANNUAL REPORT



A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

2002

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A T L A N T A • S I S T E R • C I T I E S C O M M I S S I O N

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TO

The Honorable Shirley Franklin
Mayor, City of Atlanta

The Honorable Cathy Woolard
President, Atlanta City Council

FROM

Georgianne Thomas
Chair
Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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I am pleased to submit to you the 2002 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC).

In addition to the activities of the various committees, ASCC has met monthly to carry out its role and function in relation to Atlanta's Sister Cities program.

We were pleased to serve the City of Atlanta and its international community during 2002 and look forward to the continued growth and expansion of the Sister Cities program under your administration.

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INTRODUCTION 2002

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The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

The Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) was chartered by the City of Atlanta and codified in Atlanta City Ordinance No. 1979-71. The organization is managed by a Chair, elected by the Mayor of Atlanta. The appointee must be ratified by a majority of the Atlanta City Council. Georgianne Thomas served as Chair, and Vin Martin as Vice Chair, in 2001.

The full 'board' of the Commission comprises the Chair, four Mayoral appointees and two members appointed by the City Council. In addition, the chairpersons of each Sister City Committee, or their designee, serve on the Commission.

The Mayor's appointed members in 2002 include Ms. Davilla Davis and Dr. John Eaves.

Elections are held annually to select a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Each elected officer serves a one-year term. Elected officials of the Commission are restricted to two consecutive terms in office.

Officers and committee chairs include:

Secretary	Lisa Calhoun
Treasurer	Nick Modares
New Cities	Dr. Augustine Esogbue
PR	David Smith

Other standing committees of the Commission are Fund Raising, Nominating and Economic Development.

Staff

The Commission is supported by the staff of the International Affairs Division of the Mayor's Office. The staff participates in monthly or special meetings, helps shape the Commission's policy and acts as liaison with the Mayor. In 2002, Greg Pridgeon and Claire McLeveigh played a vital role as coordinators for the Mayor's Office.

ASCC maintains a web site with press releases, annual reports and information on each of the sister cities.

www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/sister/default.html

Name of City	Date of Affiliation	Chair/Representative
Ancient Olympia - Greece	1994	Mr. Lou Zakas
Brussels - Belgium	1983	Ms. Louise Suggs
Bucharest - Romania	1994	Mr. Nick Modares
Canberra - Australia	1999	Councilwoman Julia Emmons
Cotonou - Benin	1995	Mr. Errol Williams
Lagos - Nigeria	1974	Dr. Augustine O. Esogbue
Montego Bay - Jamaica	1972	Mr. Vin Martin
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne - Great Britain	1977	Mr. David Smith
Nuremberg - Germany	1998	Ms. Terri Simmons
Port-of-Spain - Trinidad	1987	Ms. Norma Kendall - Hamlet
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	1972	Ms. Lisa Calhoun
Ra'anana - Israel	2000	Dr. Arnold Heller
Salcedo - Dominican Republic	1996	Mr. Victor Ramirez
Salzburg - Austria	1967	Ms. Nancy Love/Mr. Carlton Parker
Taegu - Korea	1981	Mr. Young Kang
Taipei - Taiwan	1974	Mr. David Yu
Tbilisi - Republic of Georgia	1988	BG (R) Thomas McCullough
Toulouse - France	1974	Mrs. Betty Davis

This is the Year 2002 Annual Report of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, submitted according to its statutory requirements. The document also includes the voluntary addition of reports for the following sister city link organizations: Atlanta-Daegu; Atlanta-Atlanta; Atlanta-Montego Bay; Atlanta-Newcastle; Atlanta-Nurmberg; Atlanta-Port-of-Spain; Atlanta-Ra'anana; Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro; Atlanta-Salcedo; Atlanta-Tbilisi and Atlanta-Toulouse Sister Cities Committees.

Reports were not received from the following: Atlanta-Ancient City of Olympia; Atlanta-Brussels; Atlanta-Bucharest; Atlanta-Cotonou; Atlanta-Canberra; Atlanta-Salzburg; and Atlanta-Taipei Sister Cities Committees.

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The New Cities Development Committee

❖ The primary basis for a twinning relationship between Atlanta and its sister cities is a proof of compatibility with Atlanta and the existence of a mutuality of genuine interest in establishing and maintaining this relationship. Each interested city must convince the Commission that it meets a well established set of criteria which include, but not limited to: i) the existence of a core group of individuals both in Atlanta and the prospective city committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure a long term and successful relationship, and ii) the presence of existing strengths which will facilitate cultural, civic and educational, technical, economic and business exchanges on a continuous basis.

❖ Each applicant city must satisfactorily go through a formal process established by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission and, upon its recommendation, be approved by both the Mayor and the Atlanta City Council. The process is then formalized by 'Sister City Agreement' signing ceremonies performed separately, both at the applicant city and the City of Atlanta.

❖ In 2002, the New Cities Development Committee (NCDC) revisited the approved criteria for the selection of a new city with emphasis on the process for developing a twinning relationship. There was some apparent concern about the rigor and depth of the questionnaire used to collect data on an applicant city. The Committee reviewed the questionnaire and the cover letter and decided to keep the basic content but to restructure it with a user-friendlier format. A letter of transmittal was also developed to accompany the data collection questionnaire. The Commission approved the documents and the process to be followed by all applicant cities.

❖ The NCDC reviewed the application of the city of Lobatse, Botswana but did not find sufficient compatibility with Atlanta to warrant a positive recommendation. The ASCC concurred with this position and submitted this recommendation to the Mayor. Several other cities expressed interest in pursuing a twinning relationship. The list includes city of Hyderabad in India, and Herat, Afghanistan. Preliminary pursuit of these interests is in progress. Fukuoka intensified its interest and was provided with the approved data collection questionnaire. A letter of approval of this interest was provided by the City of Oakland thus permitting further progress on the process. The status of Canberra, which had been approved by both the Mayor and City Council, was also reviewed and a decision to obtain further clarification from its sponsor taken.

Georgianne Thomas, elected to SCI board

❖ Georgianne Thomas, chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, was elected in August to serve as board member of Sister Cities International (SCI). Thomas was elected by SCI membership attending the organization's annual conference, held in Toledo, Ohio.

❖ Georgianne Thomas, who has been chair of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission (ASCC) Since 1998, said, "I look forward to bringing to SCI the insights and experiences of working with Atlanta's vigorous program of exchange activities, including educational programs, cultural exchanges, philanthropic missions, economic development and social development. Atlanta successfully hosted the SCI Annual Convention in 2001, and several of our sister city committees have been recognized and awarded by SCI for their community outreach and educational development programs."

❖ SCI is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, with 21 members serving for staggered three-year terms. Georgianne Thomas is the only African American woman currently serving on the SCI board.

❖ SCI is the nonprofit citizen diplomacy network, based in Washington DC, responsible for creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities in an effort to increase global cooperation at the municipal level, to promote cultural understanding and to stimulate economic development. The organization coordinates links between 675 cities in the United States and 1,500 communities in 121 countries around the world.

❖ President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed the "People-to-People" program at a White House conference in 1956 with the intention to involve individuals and organized groups at all levels of society in citizen diplomacy, in order that personal relationships, fostered through sister city, county and state affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts. Originally a part of the National League of Cities, Sister Cities International (SCI) became a separate, nonprofit corporation in 1967.



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Atlanta - Daegu Sister City Committee

- ❖ This year's project was to arrange sister school relationship between two high schools - Kyeongbuk High school in Daegu and North Atlanta High School (NAHS) in Atlanta. Dr. Arnold Heller of NAHS was highly instrumental in creating this exchange.
- ❖ A delegation of four North Atlanta High school students, headed by Dr. Arnold Heller and Young Kang of the Daegu Sister City Committee, visited to Daegu in April to inaugurate the relationship. The Atlanta students stayed a week in the homes of Kyeongbuk High School students.
- ❖ To reciprocate, seven students headed by teacher Mr. Sung lak Lee, visited to North Atlanta High School for one week in October, staying with student families and experiencing the great American way of life!
- ❖ The Atlanta-Daegu Sister City Committee wants to expand these efforts to include other schools in the other cities that have sister city relationships with Atlanta, so as to give Daegu students a better understanding of the world.



❖ More information on the exchanges can be found at the International Business Program (IBP) Exchanges section of www.actco.org.

Left: NAHS group in Kyeongbuk High School classroom.

Below: Daegu students and hosts visit MLK memorial in Atlanta.



Lagos - Atlanta Sister City Committee

- ❖ The 2002-year, in several ways, built on the momentum generated in 2001. The Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee (LASCC) continued to grow its membership in terms of size and diversity of professional backgrounds as well as its balance between citizens of American and Nigerian origins. Although the group lost some members, it nevertheless welcomed a number of new ones as well as some old members who had been previously inactive.
- ❖ The program highlights include a concerted effort to assist in the reorganization and revitalization of the Lagos counterpart group, which had suffered some serious setbacks due to local upheavals and political dislocations primarily involving the Office of the Chairman of the Local Government (Mayor of Lagos). The foregoing flurries of visits and meetings led to the development of a new framework for the establishment of a much strengthened group combining four local governments which were part of the original sister city of Lagos.



Members of the Lagos-Atlanta Sister City Committee with former Mayor of Lagos during visit to Atlanta

- ❖ At a dinner meeting held in December in Victoria Island, Lagos by the new officers, the Mayors of the four local governments, and the Royal Highness, Chief Shakoor Ajose, the Suenu of Lagos, Professor Esogbue was presented with two carvings, one for himself and the other, a famous traditional GELEDE mask, for Mayor Shirley Franklin.

Report continues next page.....

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Lagos-Atlanta Sister Cities Committee (continued)

❖ In one of his visits to Lagos, Professor Esogbue paid courtesy site visits to a number of schools in Lagos, which are candidates for adoption, and potential recipients of the Atlanta Books and Computers for Lagos project. A list of needs by these schools was generated. Details of the mechanics of this school adoption project as well as possible assistance are being fleshed out by a sub committee led by Mrs. Marie Brown and Mrs. Effie Taylor.

❖ The Committee, through its members, continued its tradition of community outreach programs in the Metro-Atlanta area. This took the form of various volunteer presentations to community groups and high schools to expose them to the cultural riches and heritage of Lagos and Nigeria as well as the facets of renascent Nigeria.



Dr. Esogbue, Chair of the Lagos - Atlanta Sister City Committee, visits a school in Nigeria.

❖ The Chair presented a replica of the FESTAC mask to Mayor Franklin from the private collection of Professor Esogbue on behalf of the Lagos Committee in response to her request for art objects from Atlanta's sister cities.

❖ The year 2002 was regrettably marked with two disasters, which hit the city of Lagos hard and led to considerable loss of human capital and property. The first was an ammunition dump explosion in Ikeja, on the outskirts of the city of Lagos and the other was due to a major fire outbreak in a high-rise building at Idumagbo, in Lagos Island. Plans are in progress to develop effective response mechanisms. For example, discussions are ongoing to explore the possibilities of providing training in fire fighting and prevention, as well as other resources, akin to that provided the Sister City of Trinidad by Atlanta.

❖ The partnership agreement facilitated by LASCC between the Georgia Power Company and the Nigerian National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) was in full gear in its first year of operation. A team of Nigerian power executives visited Atlanta for a weeklong training in various facets of the program. Professor Esogbue presented a lecture on the organization of the LASCC and its role in furthering economic exchanges and overall development of Nigeria. At a dinner reception which he hosted for the visiting Nigerian executives in his home, the visitors were introduced to some of the LASCC members and some key players in the Atlanta community

❖ Another major and significant activity involved the initiation of a partnership between the U.S. Nigeria Peace Corps Alumni Association in cooperation with a Women's Organization in Nigeria to promote and fund Women secondary education in Nigeria. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the partnership is being developed by the Committee.

❖ The Committee investigated the possibility of responding to an invitation from the national SCI office relative to its plans to apply for a State Department grant that would give U.S. communities with sister city partners in African countries an opportunity to work together on AIDS issues. Other project funding opportunities along these lines are being explored.



The Chair of the Lagos - Atlanta Sister City Committee, Dr. Augustine Esogbue, joins Hon. Keshi, Consul General of Nigeria to Atlanta, and Rev. Wayne Thompson to celebrate Nigerian Independence Day.

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Atlanta - Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee

❖ The Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister Cities Committee (the "Committee") was established in 1972 by formal declaration of the respective Mayors and City Councils of both cities. It is the second longest relationship that exists between Atlanta and its sister cities.

❖ Committee Structure - Both the Atlanta and Montego Bay branches utilize the same business structure and operate in a similar manner. The Committee is run by a Chairperson and has several subcommittees each of which is headed by a subcommittees chair. The subcommittee are as follows:

- Cultural Affairs
- Education
- Fund-raising
- Health and Human Services
- Technology Transfer
- Tourism

The Committee has 45 active members but draws upon wide community support to fund the many activities undertaken each year. Meetings are held once per month.



A member of the medical mission.

2002 Activities

❖ Education: The Committee awarded a scholarship to a student attending Montego Bay High Schools in its continuing effort to lend its support to deserving students.



Ambassador Andrew Young, Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, and Atlanta-Montego Bay Sister City Committee Chair Vin Martin unveiling photograph at Jamaican Independence celebration.

❖ The Education Committee also facilitated practical training for two student nurses from the Medical College of Georgia and two fourth year medical students from Penn State's Medical School. All four students accompanied our medical mission to Montego Bay and received training from our medical team..

❖ Cultural Affairs: The Committee assisted in planning the celebration of Jamaica's 40th Anniversary as an independent nation. It was instrumental in organizing a major pictorial display depicting its 40 years of independence. Jamaica's Prime Minister, the Hon. P.J. Patterson, and Ambassador Andrew Young participated in the unveiling ceremonies. The Committee also held its annual gospel brunch at Atlanta City Hall. Additionally the Committee held a successful ball, the proceeds of which were used to support its health mission to Montego Bay.

❖ Health and Human Services: The ninth annual medical mission to Montego Bay was undertaken in October, 2002. Our team of physicians and nurses provided needed medical care to 2,950 patients during the 3 ½ days of the mission. The team also donated over \$125,000 of medicine and medical supplies to the patients.

❖ Sports: The Committee held its second annual fund raising golf charity tournament at the Charley Yates Golf Club in Atlanta. This was another in a series of fund raising events for the Committee's overseas health mission.

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Atlanta - Newcastle Sister City Committee



- ❖ As a result of initiatives led by academic- and investment-related institutions in Newcastle, an economic development office, representing the North of England, was opened in Atlanta in 1999.
- ❖ The Atlanta office was one of the first to combine interests of three regional economic development agencies, including Newcastle, in expanding economic interests with USA. These organizations have used the model established in Atlanta to merge their entire US representation, including offices in Chicago and Boston.
- ❖ The Atlanta office is actively engaged in identifying companies throughout a 7-state territory that would benefit from using Newcastle's resources in the field of information technology, in areas such as networks, telecommunications, financial services, back office systems and medical technology. The post is occupied by an Atlanta native who had worked at one of the regional development agencies in England.
- ❖ The University of Northumbria in Newcastle (UNN) is responsible for the coordination of the European 'Centers Abroad' program of the State of Georgia educational system and has an extensive network of colleges that participate in exchanges for students and academic staff.



Atlanta - Nürnberg Sister City Committee

- ❖ The members of the Atlanta/Nürnberg Sister City Committees serve on a volunteer basis to promote the relationship between Atlanta and Nürnberg in the areas of business, culture, fine arts, religion and education. Exchanges in these areas have been supported by private sponsorships from companies and by the Office of International Relations of the City of Nürnberg.
- ❖ Teri A. Simmons serves as the Chair of the Atlanta Committee, Jochen Schaefer serves as the Chair of the Nürnberg Committee and Dr. Norbert Schuergers serves as the Director of the Nürnberg Office of International Relations.
- ❖ Teri Simmons, Chair of the Atlanta -Nuremberg Sister City Committee, participated in a seminar on Comparative Immigration Law, the United States and Germany, at the German American Institute in Nuremberg, with the Director of Germany's Department of Labor.
- ❖ In 2002, Nürnberg and Atlanta jointly planned many programs, highlighted by a March seminar in Nürnberg on post September 11 shock and its affect on the cities; a reading by the author Valetta Anderson; a visit by the Druid Hills High School Soccer Team to Nürnberg; a visit and concert of the Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir in Nürnberg; residence of the artist Deanna Sirlin in the Artist Colony with artists from metropolitan Nürnberg; and an exhibition by School B6 at the City Hall in Nürnberg depicting images from a visit to Atlanta and New York
- ❖ The year ended with a visit by Shean Atkins, director of the office of Atlanta city councilman Jim Maddox, to the City of Nürnberg, where he represented Atlanta for one month in a booth at the Christmas market, and where he lectured in a Nürnberg school.
- ❖ Sponsorship thanks for the year 2002 goes to the Office of International Relations, City of Nürnberg, to the Office of Jim Maddox, to Arnall Golden Gregory, Roedel & Partner and Nürmont GmbH and The Goethe Institut Inter Nationes Atlanta.

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Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee

❖ The purpose of the Atlanta - Port-of-Spain Sister City Committee (APSCC) is to provide a structure to allow people to give expression of their common desire for friendship and understanding, by initiating, developing, promoting and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships. The activities perused by APSCC are educational, cultural, civic and business development in nature. The Committee was established in 1987 and has 18 members.

❖ 2002 highlights included a New Year's Eve party at the home of a member of the Education Committee, which provided fellowship among members and supporters of the Committee.

❖ The Chair and some members of the Cultural Committee visited Trinidad and Tobago for Carnival, where they were hosted by the President and members of the Port-of-Spain - Atlanta Sister City Committee.

❖ An exhibition of Highlights of 2002 Carnival in Trinidad was seen by six groups of international students and a private showing was given to an audience of 200 persons.

❖ The President of APSCC visited Port of Spain in August, where she met with the President to the Port-of-Spain - Atlanta Sister City Committee, the Chief Fire Officer and members of the Fire Service to discuss upcoming exchanges between the departments.

❖ In October, the Committee hosted a delegation visiting the Center for Trade and Technology Transfer in Atlanta to promote business opportunities in Trinidad & Tobago. Attendees at the conference were Dr. Brian Harry of the Tourism and Industrial Development Company of Trinidad & Tobago (TIDCO) and his delegation, along with members of the Trinidad & Tobago Manufacturers Association. A gift to the Mayor of Atlanta was presented by TIDCO via the President of APSCC.

❖ The committee also assisted the Center for Trade and Technology Transfer in their preparation for a Trade Mission to visit Trinidad & Tobago in November.

❖ The President APSCC along with the Director and members of the Metro Atlanta Caribbean Chamber of Commerce visited St Lucia in October where they met with members of St. Lucia's business community and the business representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, in order to promote business exchanges between Atlanta and the islands of the Carribean,

❖ At Thanksgiving, the President and committee of APSCC hosted a reception for the international students from Trinidad & Tobago who attended Atlanta University and Morehouse College.

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Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee



ing the community about Atlanta's sister city in Israel.

❖ Beit Noam, a Ra'anana-based organization that works to prevent family violence and abuse, visited Atlanta in January 2002. Georgia State Attorney General Thurbert Baker is considering funding a similar organization in Georgia. Yochaved Koplowitz and Gil Franks, directors of Retreat from Violence International, have met with Thurbert Baker on several occasions.

❖ An Atlanta-Israel Chamber of Commerce mission visited Ra'anana in June and was hosted by Mayor Zeev Bielski and economic development official, Michael Cohen. The mission met with 20 company leaders in the Sharon District. As a result, the Onset Technology Company of Ra'anana, Israel, established a regional office in Atlanta.

❖ The Atlanta - Ra'anana Sister City Committee (ARSCC) Chair welcomed the new Israeli Consul - General, Schmuel ben Schmuel, at a reception held by The American Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICC) in September. Ra'anana Mayor Zeev Bielski wrote to inform the new consul of the work of AICC President Tom Glaser and ARSCC Chair Arnold Heller in building bridges between Atlanta and Ra'anana.

❖ On Jan. 19, 2003, 106 JFGA mission members from Atlanta visited a refugee absorption center that was currently assisting Argentine immigrants. The first JFGA mission to include Ra'anana in an itinerary met with Mayor Zeev Bielski in a reception that honored the sister city status between Atlanta and Ra'anana.

❖ Numerous joint projects took place during the year that focused on increasing trade between Atlanta and Israel. The American-Israel Chamber of Commerce President Tom Glaser and Vice President Ilan Friedmann enable Israeli companies to open offices in the Southeastern US and for Atlanta companies to invest in Israel's hi-tech industries.

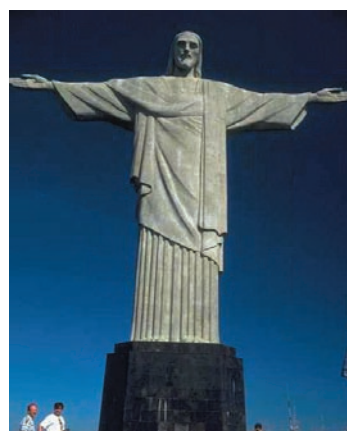
Atlanta - Rio Sister City Committee

❖ In 2002, Brazil elected a new president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. He was brought up in poverty in Brazil's semi-arid north-east and is Brazil's first working class president.

❖ Despite the country's precarious economic situation, polls show that Brazilians have higher levels of optimism about him than they had about any of the four other elected governments since the end of the 1964-85 dictatorship. The new president's focus is to fight poverty and he has commenced an anti-hunger campaign.

❖ In support of the president's agenda, the Atlanta-Rio de Janeiro sister city will adopt an orphanage in Rio de Janeiro and assist with providing funds for food throughout the year and gift boxes at Christmas time.

❖ In Atlanta, we have events planned in 2003 that will expose Atlantans to Brazilian culture. We will, for example give demonstrations of 'capoeira', a martial artform that originated in the sixteenth century among slaves that had been transported to Brazil from African nations such as Angola, Congo, and Guinea.



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Atlanta - Salcedo Sister City Committee

❖ In February, Georgia's Dominican International Association (DIA) and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee (ASSCC) commemorated the 158th Dominican Independence Day at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium. Atlanta Councilman Derrick Boazman represented Mayor Shirley Franklin and presented a proclamation to the Dominican community residing in Georgia. Representatives of various organizations, members of the Consular Corps and government officials enjoyed Dominican coffee and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Director of Cultural Affairs of DIA Clelia Montes de Oca. The last Saturday of February, a party was held at the Marriott Hotel in Atlanta to celebrate that date.



Atlanta Councilman Derrick Boazman presents a proclamation to the Dominican community.
Photo courtesy of La Vision.

❖ In April, The ASSCC and The DIA sponsored the first Carnival Peachtree Latino 2002 held in the City of Atlanta. Miss Latin America 2002 Claudia Cruz, a native of the Dominican Republic was the Beauty Queen of the carnival. Members of the ASSCC and the DIA participated at the carnival parade through Downtown Atlanta on April 20. Also, invited artist Cristóbal Rodríguez brought a colorful exhibition of his paintings and carnival masks from the Dominican Republic that were displayed at Underground Atlanta. The ASSCC co-sponsored the Carnival Peachtree Latino 2002 in Downtown Atlanta where thousands of people enjoyed performances of famous artists - singers and music bands - from various Latin countries.

❖ In October, the Dominican International Association and the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee celebrated the 2002 Dominican Gala at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium. Ms. Dedé Mirabal and Ms. Jacqueline Guzmán Mirabal, sister and daughter of the three Dominican heroines were honored at that special occasion. Honored guests of the gala included Mayor Shirley Franklin's chief of staff, Greg Pridgeon, Atlanta Sister Cities Commission Chair, Georgianne Thomas, and Former Atlanta Mayor, Bill Campbell and his daughter, Cristina. Víctor Ramírez, President of DIA and Chair of the ASSCC welcomed guests to the gala from New York, Florida and Dominican Republic.

❖ Former Mayor Bill Campbell and the world-renowned designer Oscar De la Renta, received the 2002 Mirabal Sisters Award for their contributions to the children of the Dominican Republic. Chef Mike Mercedes prepared the food for the event and the 'Duet Braho' delighted the audience with beautiful songs.

The Dominican Gala at the Atlanta City Hall Atrium



❖ Underground Atlanta, American Airlines, Bell South, Howard Johnson Hotel and El Rebusque Magazine sponsored the 2002 Dominican Gala. Their support and contributions will support the project to build the children's Park Atlanta in the Dominican Republic. This wonderful project was initiated by the Atlanta-Salcedo Sister City Committee to promote cultural and artistic exchanges between the two cities.

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Atlanta - Tbilisi Sister City Committee

❖ The Atlanta – Tbilisi Sister City Committee participated in several events during the year. In July, several members for the Republic of Georgia news media visited Atlanta where they were hosted by the sister city group. A briefing was conducted on the campus of Georgia Tech and various organizations and individuals interested in supporting cultural exchanges between the two cities presented an overview.

❖ The committee also supported the activities of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hassinger of the Friendship Force in their preparation and shipment of medical supplies, clothing and other goods to the Republic of Georgia.

❖ During 2003, the committee plans to increase all areas of cultural exchange. Concentrating initially on building its membership ranks, it is anticipated that a number of former Tbilisi residents, now living in Atlanta, will join.

❖ The committee will continue its assist the Hassingers and the Friendship Force in their program of humanitarian support and will look to coordinate other organizations that are currently involved with the Republic of Georgia to assure maximum benefit in all endeavors.

❖ Current areas being developed include educational sponsorship programs, coordinated with a local Rotary Club and Rotary International; a program to assist medical training; the obtaining of medical treatment for sufferers of Hepatitis C; and the funding of a visit to Atlanta by a Georgian dance troupe.

❖ The committee will also coordinate with the National Council for International Visitors (NCIV) and the Georgia Council of International Visitors (GCIV) to assure maximum the visibility of all Georgians that visit Atlanta.

❖ The committee welcomes new members.

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Atlanta - Toulouse Sister City Committee



❖ The Atlanta-Toulouse Sister City Committee has had an outstanding year of activities, projects, programs, and a trip to Toulouse for the group. The dues paid membership is 96.

❖ The officers installed in April 2001 are: Chair - Betty Davis; Vice Chairmen - Renee Brown, John Lyons and Charlotte Sprawls; Treasurer - Carol Evans. Officers were installed at the home of the new French Consul General, Rene-Serge Marty.

❖ The highlight of the year was the annual trip to Toulouse in October when a group of 21 travelers made a five-day visit in Toulouse staying with French families and extending with a tour through Provence.

❖ Following the devastation caused by a major explosion in September 2001, ATSCC has initiated a project to send a Phoenix sculpture to Toulouse as a symbol of rising from the ashes, as was Atlanta's experience.



❖ The main social occasion for the group during the last two years has been an Epiphany party celebrated in the French manner. This 12th day of Christmas / January 6th event features the traditional Kings Cake made with the French recipes, including a 'fève' (prize) that designates its finder as "king" of the party. The gift-swapping game each year has become a fun tradition with members bringing their least favorite Christmas gift to exchange!



❖ In April a group went to see the play 'Dissident, Goes Without Saying', at Theatre du Rêve, 7 Stages Theater, followed by a Bistro dinner.

❖ A major fund raising event 'The Wonderful World of Wine' was held in September at the Manor of Buckhead on Piedmont. The wine tasting and auction, attracted 140 people and netted almost \$10,000 for the Phoenix sculpture project.



The Atlanta group at Toulouse City Hall.

❖ The October meeting featured speaker, Chris Rosse, on Baccarat crystal. Also that month, French jazz pianist, Philippe LeJeune, presented a soiree at member's home with 50 members of the group in attendance.

❖ At the November meeting Jo Ann McNatt, spoke on Jean Paul Sartre.

❖ The Toulouse group operates a web site, managed by Perry and Charlotte Sprawls. For updated information go to www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/sister/Toulouse.



The Toulouse Capitole

2002

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Members and guests of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission



Produced by the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission
Public Relations Committee

For information on Atlanta Sister Cities, contact

Mayor's Office of International Affairs

55 Trinity Street

Atlanta GA 30335

www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/sister/default.html

